

A Distinguishing Mark of an End Time Believer

***'Then those who feared
the LORD spoke to one another, and
the LORD listened and heard them;
so a book of remembrance was
written before Him for those who
fear the LORD and who meditate on
His name'
(Mal.3:16)***

'And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching'

(Heb.10:24-25)

What did they say?

They expressed their faith in God in a godless world and rebellious generation, and their love for the brethren

These are the two hallmarks of genuine Christianity

The ungodly did the opposite

***"Your words have been harsh
against Me," says the LORD'
(Mal.3:13)***

'...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation"'

(2 Pet.3:3-4)

***'But know this, that in the last days
perilous times will come: For men will
be... slanderers... having a form of
godliness but denying its power.
And from such people turn away!'***

(2 Tim.3:1-5)

"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage...

'...But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God...'

(Jude 14-20)

'And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold'

(Mt.24:10-12)

Summary: In the end times, when life becomes difficult, there will be people among the people of God who:

- ✓ **scoff at God**
- ✓ **say it's useless living for Him**
- ✓ **mock those who teach the 2nd Coming**
- ✓ **attack Paul's teaching**
- ✓ **say harsh things against God**
- ✓ **grumble, complain, boast, flatter**
- ✓ **cause division, slander and betray their brothers and sisters**

**In contrast those who fear God will
speak often to one another**

**By their words they build up faith in God
stir up love and good works**

***'...exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin'
(Heb.3:13)***

***'...And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs'
(Eph.5:18-19)***

**This is what it means to prophesy, to
speak forth the Word of God to His
people**

***'But he who prophesies speaks
edification and exhortation and
comfort to men'
(1 Cor.14:3)***

***'He who prophesies edifies the church'
(1 Cor.14:4)***

What about the office of the prophet?

The apostle *lays* foundations, the prophet calls the church *back* to its foundations when it strays

The apostle brings the *logos*, but the prophet brings the *rhema* (the 'now' word)

Sometimes this means foretelling (revelation) and other times forth-telling (inspiration)

**Foretelling (revelation):
E.g. Ananias and Sapphira**

***'...if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you'
(1 Cor.14:24-25)***

'And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar'
(Acts 11:28)

'And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down' from Judaea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles'"'

(Acts 21:10-11)

Forth-telling (inspiration)

'Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them"'

(Acts 13:1-2)

*'Now, Judas and Silas, themselves
being prophets also, exhorted and
strengthened the brethren with
many words'
(Acts 15:32)*

But on a personal level we are encouraged to prophesy to one another, i.e. to speak forth God's Word in order to encourage and strengthen one another

'Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy'
(1 Cor.14:1)

How do we do this?

Feed your soul well

**Spend time in the Word of God and
establish your heart in grace**

***'...out of the abundance of the heart the
mouth speaks. A good man out of the
good treasure of his heart brings forth
good things, and an evil man out of the
evil treasure brings forth evil things'
(Matt.12:34-35)***

**Be selective what you read, and what
and who you listen to**

**Remember, you are storing up treasure
in your heart**

***'Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly in all wisdom, teaching and
admonishing one another in psalms
and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to
the Lord'***

(Col.3:16)

'Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers'

(Eph.4:29)

'By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked'

(Prov.11:11)

The most common Greek word for blessing is eulogia = to speak well of; to invoke a blessing upon

***"Let your speech always be with grace,
seasoned with salt, that you may know
how you ought to answer each one"***

(Col.4:6)